

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 3, 5-9, 11-13 and 16-18 are withdrawn. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 4 are amended. Accordingly, claims 1, 4, 10, 14, 15 and 19-21 are currently under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to Figure 31 for not being designated by a legend such as --PRIOR ART--. By this Amendment, a replacement sheet for Figure 31 is submitted which obviates this objection.

The drawings are also objected to under 37 CFR §1.83(a) as not showing the light absorbing layer recited in claim 21. Applicant respectfully submits that the light absorbing layer is designated by reference number 36, as shown in Figures 10-13, 19, 26 and 30, and described in the specification on, for example, page 43, line 23-page 44, line 1, and on page 60, lines 14-17. Applicant respectfully requests that this objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 4, 10, 14, 15 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. By this Amendment, claim 4 is written in independent form, thereby obviating this rejection. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 4, 10, 14, 15 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,751,385 to Heinze (hereinafter "Heinze"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Heinze's Figures 3 and 4 disclose a dichroic circular polarizing layer (52). However, Figures 3 and 4 identify reference number 52 as a cyan circular polarizer, not a dichroic circular polarizing layer. In addition, column 6, lines 30-32 of Heinze's specification describe the function of the cyan circular polarizer as to pass righthanded circular polarized light and block (reflect) lefthanded circular polarized light.

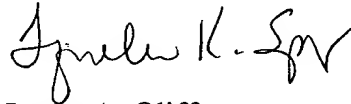
Therefore, the cyan circular polarizer 52 is not "a dichroic polarizing layer having one of a function whereby of the incident light, a light component having circular polarization of one direction, either right or left, is transmitted, and a component of another circular polarization directed is absorbed." Accordingly, Heinze does not disclose each and every feature of claim 1, and claim 1 is patentable over the applied reference.

As claim 1 was indicated to be generic to all species and subspecies in the June 4, 2003 Restriction Requirement, Applicant respectfully requests that claims 2, 3, 5-9, 11-13 and 16-18 corresponding to the remaining species be rejoined.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-21 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JKS/scg

Attachment:
Replacement Sheet

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